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EXAMINER

HUNTSINGER, PETER K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2624

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/922,521

Applicant(s)

JERAN ET AL.

Examiner

Peter K. Huntsinger

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/13/04, 4/1/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 28 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirst et al. U.S. Patent 5,930,553.

Referring to claim 1, Hirst et al. disclose a flexible printing system comprising: a printer comprising memory that stores a set of updateable print characteristics (electrographic printing parameters, col. 2, lines 45-54) and a print characteristics transfer mechanism (EEPROM 19 of Fig. 1 and 33 of Fig. 3, col. 5, lines 43-48); and a printer consumable comprising memory that stores a set of print characteristics (col. 4, lines 45-49), the printer consumable coupled to the print characteristics transfer mechanism in order to update the set of updateable print characteristics in the printer memory (col. 5, lines 54-57).

Referring to claim 4, Hirst et al. disclose the system of claim 1 wherein the memory comprises semiconductor memory and the transfer mechanism comprises

electrical contacts that transfer electrical signals from the memory to the printer (col. 2, lines 55-65).

Referring to claim 7, Hirst et al. disclose the system of claim 1 wherein the updateable print characteristics are replaced by the print characteristics stored in the print consumable memory (col. 2, lines 43-49). The updates and color lookup tables disclosed by Hirst et al. read on the claimed printer characteristics.

Referring to claim 9, Hirst et al. disclose the system of claim 1 wherein the updateable characteristics include color tables (col. 2, lines 43-49).

Referring to claim 28, Hirst et al. disclose a printer cartridge apparatus having a capability for printing on media and updating printing characteristics of a printer, the apparatus comprising: memory that stores printing characteristics for use by the printer (EEPROM 19 of Fig. 1 and 33 of Fig. 3, col. 5, lines 43-48); means for transferring the printing characteristics to the printer, the means coupled to the memory (col. 2, lines 37-49); and means for printing on the media (image forming device 10 of Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 24-28).

Referring to claim 31, Hirst et al. disclose the apparatus of claim 28 wherein the printing characteristics include a color table (col. 2, lines 43-49).

3. Claims 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brot et al. U.S. Patent 6,522,348.

Referring to claim 22, Brot et al. disclose a flexible printing system comprising: a printer comprising: memory that stores updateable printing characteristics (col. 2, lines

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43-50); and a print characteristics transfer mechanism (col. 2, lines 57-61); a network connection that enables the printer to access a network (col. 2-3, lines 62-67, 1-5); and a printer data memory that stores a uniform resource locator, the printer data memory coupled to the print characteristics transfer mechanism in order to transfer the uniform resource locator to the printer (col. 2-3, lines 62-67, 1-5) The call number of the server as disclosed by Brot et al. which serves as an address reads on the claimed universal resource locator.

Referring to claim 23, Brot et al. disclose the system of claim 22 wherein the network connection comprises a modem that is coupled to the public switched telephone network (col. 2-3, lines 62-67, 1-5).

Referring to claim 24, Brot et al. disclose the system of claim 22 wherein the network connection comprises a computer having Internet access capabilities (col. 2-3, lines 62-67, 1-5).

Referring to claim 25, Brot et al. disclose the system of claim 22 wherein the network is the Internet (col. 2-3, lines 62-67, 1-5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2 and 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirst et al. U.S. Patent 5,930,553 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Wheeler et al. U.S. Patent 6,467,888.

Referring to claim 2, Hirst et al. disclose semiconductor memory but do not disclose expressly using a radio frequency transfer mechanism. Wheeler et al. disclose the transfer mechanism comprises a radio frequency receiver that transfers the set of print characteristics from the memory over a radio frequency link (col. 13, lines 50-67). Hirst et al. and Wheeler et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of consumable printer memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to allow the printing system of Hirst et al. to transfer information using radio frequency as disclosed by Wheeler et al. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow the printer memory and the consumable memory to transfer information wirelessly. Further, the data transfer method of RFID is well known in the art and simply a generic data transfer method. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Wheeler et al. with Hirst et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Referring to claim 12, Hirst et al. disclose a flexible printing system comprising: a printer comprising programmable memory that stores updateable print characteristics (electrographic printing parameters, col. 2, lines 45-54) (EEPROM 19 of Fig. 1 and 33 of Fig. 3, col. 5, lines 43-48); and a printer consumable comprising memory that stores a set of printer characteristics (col. 4, lines 45-49). Hirst et al. does not disclose expressly using a radio receiver or transmitter. Wheeler et al. disclose a radio frequency receiver

and a radio frequency transmitter that transmits the printer characteristics to the radio frequency receiver (col. 8-9, lines 60-67, 1-3). Hirst et al. and Wheeler et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of consumable printer memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to allow the printing system of Hirst et al. to transfer information using radio frequency as disclosed by Wheeler et al. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow the printer memory and the consumable memory to transfer information wirelessly. Further, the data transfer method of RFID is well known in the art and simply a generic data transfer method. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Wheeler et al. with Hirst et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 12.

Referring to claim 13, Hirst et al. disclose the method comprising the steps of: the printer querying the printer data memory (1. of Fig. 5); when the printer data memory responds, the printer retrieving the second set of printing characteristics from the printer data memory (1. of Fig. 5); and updating the printer with the second set of printing characteristics (col. 2, lines 43-49). Hirst et al. does not disclose expressly using radio frequency identification. Wheeler et al. disclose transmitting print characteristics over a radio frequency link (col. 3, lines 54-60). Hirst et al. and Wheeler et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of consumable printer memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to allow the printing system of Hirst et al. to transfer information using radio frequency as disclosed by Wheeler et al. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow the printer memory and the consumable memory to transfer information wirelessly. Further, the

data transfer method of RFID is well known in the art and simply a generic data transfer method. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Wheeler et al. with Hirst et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 13.

Referring to claim 14, Hirst et al. disclose if the first set and the second set of printing characteristics are substantially equivalent, the printer using the first set of printing characteristics (col. 5, lines 57-62). Hirst et al. disclose that the printing characteristics are updated only when an alternative is available different from the original instructions.

Referring to claim 15, Wheeler et al. disclose if the second set of printing characteristics is incompatible with capabilities of the printer, the printer using the first set of printing characteristics (Step 520 of Fig. 14, col. 21, lines 48-61). The method of Wheeler et al. takes no action with the characteristics when incompatible ink is inserted. Since the first set of printing characteristics were designated before the incompatible ink was inserted, the first set of characteristics would still be used.

Referring to claim 16, Hirst et al. disclose the second set of printing characteristics comprises a color table (col. 2, lines 43-49). Hirst et al. do not disclose expressly a dithering algorithm characteristic. It would have been obvious to update a dithering algorithm because a dithering algorithm is a common characteristic in printers. A dithering algorithm is used to approximate a color from a mixture of other colors when the required color is not available. Because most printers exclusively use only 3 primary colors and black ink, a dithering algorithm is used in most printers to provide the different color tones. Hirst et al. does not list all the possible print characteristics but

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only gives a specific example of a color table. A color table provides the same values as the dithering algorithm, but list the values instead of giving an equation to generate the values. Official Notice is taken that it is obvious and well known in the art to use a dithering algorithm in a printer. The motivation for providing an equation instead of a table would be to limit the space needed to store a color table. Therefore, it would have been obvious to obtain the invention as specified in claim 16.

Referring to claim 17, Hirst et al. disclose the first and second sets of printing characteristics comprise a color table (col. 2, lines 43-49).

Referring to claim 18, Hirst et al. disclose a set of updateable print characteristics (col. 2, lines 43-49). Hirst et al. do not disclose expressly a dithering algorithm characteristic. It would have been obvious to update a dithering algorithm because a dithering algorithm is a common characteristic in printers. A dithering algorithm is used to approximate a color from a mixture of other colors when the required color is not available. Because most printers exclusively use only 3 primary colors and black ink, a dithering algorithm is used in most printers to provide the different color tones. Hirst et al. does not list all the possible print characteristics but only gives a specific example of a color table. A color table provides the same values as the dithering algorithm, but list the values instead of giving an equation to generate the values. Official Notice is taken that it is obvious and well known in the art to use a dithering algorithm in a printer. The motivation for providing an equation instead of a table would be to limit the space needed to store a color table. Therefore, it would have been obvious to obtain the invention as specified in claim 18.

6. Claims 3, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirst et al. U.S. Patent 5,930,553 as applied to claims 1 and above, and further in view of Arthur et al. U.S. Patent 5,049,898.

Referring to claim 3, Hirst et al. disclose printer consumable memory but do not disclose expressly optical memory. Arthur et al. disclose the memory comprises optical memory and the transfer mechanism comprises a laser for reading the optical memory (col. 3, lines 4-9). Hirst et al. and Arthur et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of consumable printer memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to allow the printing system of Hirst et al. to read optical memory. The motivation for doing so would have been the lower cost of using optical memory. Further, optical memory is well known in the art and a common way to encode data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Arthur et al. with Hirst et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 3.

Referring to claim 5, Hirst et al. disclose printer consumable memory but do not disclose expressly magnetic memory. Arthur et al. disclose magnetic memory and the transfer mechanism comprises a magnetic data reader for reading the magnetic memory (col. 3, lines 39-45). Hirst et al. and Arthur et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of consumable printer memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to allow the printing system of Hirst et al. to utilize magnetic memory. The motivation for doing so would have been the stability and versatility of the memory. Further, the magnetic memory is

well known in the art and simply a generic type of memory. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Arthur et al. with Hirst et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 5.

Referring to claim 6, Hirst et al. disclose printer consumable memory but do not disclose expressly magnetic memory. Arthur et al. disclose a bar code and the transfer mechanism comprises a laser scanner that scans the bar code and transfers the scanned data to the printer (col. 6, lines 34-38). Hirst et al. and Arthur et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of consumable printer memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to allow the printing system of Hirst et al. to read bar codes. The motivation for doing so would have been the lower cost of printing bar codes. Further, bar codes are well known in the art and a common way to encode data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Arthur et al. with Hirst et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 6.

7. Claims 8, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirst et al. U.S. Patent 5,930,553.

Referring to claim 8, Hirst et al. disclose a set of updateable print characteristics (col. 2, lines 43-49), but do not disclose expressly a dithering algorithm characteristic. It would have been obvious to update a dithering algorithm because a dithering algorithm is a common characteristic in printers. A dithering algorithm is used to approximate a color from a mixture of other colors when the required color is not available. Because

most printers exclusively use only 3 primary colors and black ink, a dithering algorithm is used in most printers to provide the different color tones. Hirst et al. does not list all the possible print characteristics but only gives a specific example of a color table. A color table provides the same values as the dithering algorithm, but list the values instead of giving an equation to generate the values. Official Notice is taken that it is obvious and well known in the art to use a dithering algorithm in a printer. The motivation for providing an equation instead of a table would be to limit the space needed to store a color table. Therefore, it would have been obvious to obtain the invention as specified in claim 8.

Referring to claim 29, Hirst et al. disclose Hirst et al. disclose a color table printing characteristic (col. 2, lines 43-49), but do not disclose expressly a dithering algorithm characteristic. It would have been obvious to update a dithering algorithm because a dithering algorithm is a common characteristic in printers. A dithering algorithm is used to approximate a color from a mixture of other colors when the required color is not available. Because most printers exclusively use only 3 primary colors and black ink, a dithering algorithm is used in most printers to provide the different color tones. Hirst et al. does not list all the possible print characteristics but only gives a specific example of a color table. A color table provides the same values as the dithering algorithm, but list the values instead of giving an equation to generate the values. Official Notice is taken that it is obvious and well known in the art to use a dithering algorithm in a printer. The motivation for providing an equation instead of a

table would be to limit the space needed to store a color table. Therefore, it would have been obvious to obtain the invention as specified in claim 29.

Referring to claim 30, Hirst et al. disclose Hirst et al. disclose a set of updateable print characteristics (col. 2, lines 43-49), but do not disclose expressly a dithering algorithm characteristic. It would have been obvious to update a dithering algorithm because a dithering algorithm is a common characteristic in printers. A dithering algorithm is used to approximate a color from a mixture of other colors when the required color is not available. Because most printers exclusively use only 3 primary colors and black ink, a dithering algorithm is used in most printers to provide the different color tones. Hirst et al. does not list all the possible print characteristics but only gives a specific example of a color table. A color table provides the same values as the dithering algorithm, but list the values instead of giving an equation to generate the values. Official Notice is taken that it is obvious and well known in the art to use a dithering algorithm in a printer. The motivation for providing an equation instead of a table would be to limit the space needed to store a color table. Therefore, it would have been obvious to obtain the invention as specified in claim 30.

8. Claims 10, 11, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirst et al. U.S. Patent 5,930,553 as applied to claims 1 and 28 above, and further in view of Bullock et al. U.S. Patent 5,835,817.

Referring to claim 10, Hirst et al. disclose upgradeable printer characteristics but do not disclose expressly finishing process characteristics. Bullock et al. disclose

updateable characteristics include finishing processes (col. 5, lines 14-22). Hirst et al. and Bullock et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of consumable printer memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to allow the printing system of Hirst et al. to include finishing process characteristics. The motivation for doing so would have been to easily provide the information needed to direct the finishing process to the printer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Bullock et al. with Hirst et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

Referring to claim 11, Bullock et al. disclose finishing process characteristics but do not disclose expressly a matte finish, a glossy finish, a satin finish, and finishes with varied surface roughness. Official Notice is taken that a matte finish, a glossy finish, a satin finish, and a finish with varied surface roughness are common and well known in the art. Further, these are simply generic types of finishes. Therefore, it would have been obvious to obtain the invention as specified in claim 11 because of the conventionality of these finishes and their use as alterations to the finish of Bullock et al.

Referring to claim 32, Hirst et al. disclose upgradeable printer characteristics but do not disclose expressly finishing process characteristics. Bullock et al. disclose updateable characteristics include finishing processes (col. 5, lines 14-22). Hirst et al. and Bullock et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of consumable printer memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to allow the printing system of Hirst et al. to include finishing process characteristics. The motivation for doing so would have been to easily provide

the information needed to direct the finishing process to the printer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Bullock et al. with Hirst et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 32.

9. Claims 20, 21, 26, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirst et al. U.S. Patent 5,930,553 and Brot et al. U.S. Patent 6,522,348.

Referring to claim 20, Hirst et al. disclose the method comprising the steps of; the printer reading the second set of printing characteristics (1. of Fig. 5); if the second set of printing characteristics are different from the first set of printing characteristics, the printer retrieving the second set of printing characteristics (1. of Fig. 5); and updating the first set of printing characteristics with the second set of printing characteristics (col. 2, lines 43-49). Hirst et al. do not disclose expressly utilizing a data card with printer characteristics. Brot et al. disclose a data card with print characteristics (col. 2, lines 10-16) and coupling the data card to the card reader (col. 2, lines 57-61). Hirst et al. and Brot et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of consumable printer memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to allow the printing system of Hirst et al. to transfer information using a data card. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide the convenience of the widely used data card system used in most digital cameras. Further, the data card is well known in the art and simply a generic type of storage and

transfer medium. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Brot et al. with Hirst et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 20.

Referring to claim 21, Hirst et al. disclose the method comprising the steps of; the printer reading the second set of printing characteristics (1. of Fig. 5); if the second set of printing characteristics are different from the first set of printing characteristics and the printer is capable of using the printing characteristics (1. of Fig. 5), the printer retrieving the second set of printing characteristics (1. of Fig. 5); and updating the first set of printing characteristics with the second set of printing characteristics (col. 2, lines 43-49). Hirst et al. do not disclose expressly utilizing a data card with printer characteristics. Brot et al. disclose a data card with print characteristics (col. 2, lines 10-16) and coupling the data card to the card reader (col. 2, lines 57-61). Hirst et al. and Brot et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of consumable printer memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to allow the printing system of Hirst et al. to transfer information using a data card. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide the convenience of the widely used data card system used in most digital cameras. Further, the data card is well known in the art and simply a generic type of storage and transfer medium. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Brot et al. with Hirst et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 21.

Referring to claim 26, Hirst et al. disclose the method comprising the steps of; if the second set of printing characteristics is different from the first set of printing characteristics and the printer is capable of using the second set of printing

characteristics, the printer retrieving the second set of printing characteristics (1. of Fig. 5); and updating the first set of printing characteristics in response to the second set of printing characteristics (col. 2, lines 43-49). Hirst et al. do not disclose expressly a data card that stores network identification of a location on a network. Brot et al. disclose coupling the data card to the card reader (col. 2, lines 57-61); the printer reading the network identification from the data card (col. 2-3, lines 62-67, 1-5); accessing the network identification over the network (col. 3, lines 5-8); and accessing a second set of printing characteristics at the network location designated by the network identification (col. 3, lines 9-12). Hirst et al. and Brot et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of consumable printer memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to allow the printing system of Hirst et al. to transfer information using a network location stored on a data card. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide the convenience of the widely used data card system used in most digital cameras. Further, the data card is well known in the art and simply a generic type of storage and transfer medium. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Brot et al. with Hirst et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 26.

Referring to claim 27, Brot et al. disclose the step of accessing the uniform resource locator over the Internet but do not disclose expressly accessing the uniform resource locator through a computer coupled to the printer. Official Notice is taken that it was obvious and well known in the art to access the internet through a computer coupled to the printer. Further, a printer is commonly attached to a computer for

printing out computer files. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow printing computer documents with the printer. Therefore, it would be obvious to obtain the invention as specified in claim 27.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter K. Huntsinger whose telephone number is (571)272-7435. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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